

## **PCC of St Andrew's Church, Framingham Earl:**

### **2024 Report to Framingham Earl Parish Council**

#### **Parish Activity for 2024**

There were 32 services held in the church or churchyard in 2024. Regular services were held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Sundays of each month, including Easter and Christmas Day. In addition, there were the following:

- 3 church services followed by burial in the churchyard
- 1 graveside burials following funeral services elsewhere
- 1 wedding
- 1 burial of cremated remains in the churchyard
- Christmas carol service, with donations of goods to food bank.
- Lent reflection & lunch with donations to local youth project

Attendance at services ranged from a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 30, with average attendance across the year being 19.

In addition, the church is usually open and manned on Saturday morning to welcome visitors.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held 3 ordinary meetings plus an AGM during 2024. Topics discussed included:

- Any outstanding items from the quinquennial fabric of the church building report
- The requirement for a full professional electrical safety test and remedial works.
- The requirement for PCC members to undertake Diocesan online safeguarding training
- The ongoing support from the church to the annual Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride, which raises money for both the Trust and the PCC.
- Dates of special services e.g. Harvest Festival; Carol Service etc
- Feasibility of a water supply to the church, leading to feasibility of a WC
- Use of legacies left to the church (new electronic keyboard and replacement altar carpet)
- Other various ecumenical matters pertaining to St Andrew's and/or the Benefice/Diocese.

Members of the church family have been involved in the following community initiatives:

- Framingham Earl Fuel Allotment Trust
- The Coffee Stop, which meets at Poringland Village Hall on Wednesday mornings.
- The newly formed Youth Group, which is aimed at all young people of secondary school age, and meets at Poringland Village Hall on Monday evenings.
- Can't Sing, Won't Sing; a wonderful group that meets on Saturday mornings (October to May) in Poringland Village Hall to encourage community singing and friendship over a cup of tea.

The PCC are as ever thankful to the Friends group for their ongoing support, particularly in the organisation of volunteers to mow the grass and regular working parties to keep on top of the churchyard maintenance that does not need to be contracted out (e.g. trees/hedges require professional trimming).

### Parish Finances for 2024

Receipts for the year was slightly increased on the previous level at £15,198 (2023: £11,882).

This was mainly due to the receipt of 2 generous legacies and associated donations following the sad deaths of much-missed members of the church family. Some of these funds are being used to procure a new electric keyboard and equipment in their memories.

Payments was slightly higher than the previous year at £13,719 (2023: £12,842).

This was due to an increase in church running costs and higher overall costs, plus the requirement to engage an architect to investigate the feasibility/cost of a toilet.

The main cost was, as usual, the Parish Share i.e. the sum paid to the Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance towards the overall running costs of the Parish e.g. incumbent stipend, housing, training, etc. We managed to pay the sum of £8,500 (2023: £8,447), although this was still less than the requested sum.

The year end position was an underspend of £1,479 (2023: overspend of £960); the balance at bank at year end was £4,647 (2023: £2,168).

**Alison Randall; Hon Treasurer. April 2025**